



### **ENGLAND'S LINES DON'T MAKE THE MARK**

- **47 per cent of markings on all roads need replacing immediately or scheduled for replacing**
- **17 per cent of markings on all roads are excellent**
- **52 per cent of markings on motorways need replacing immediately or scheduled for replacing**
- **Only 16 per cent of markings on motorways are excellent**

Half of all road markings on England's highways are so worn that they need replacing immediately or need to be scheduled for replacement now, according to a survey of nearly 4,000km of the country's roads.

LifeLines England, a report based on the survey carried out by the Road Safety Markings Association, and published today (13 March), found that 52 per cent of markings on motorways, 42 per cent on dual carriageways, and 48 per cent on single carriageways all need replacing immediately or need to be scheduled for replacement now. The survey, the most comprehensive published of its kind, also shows that just 16 per cent of markings on England's motorways and 13 per cent on single carriageways make the "excellent" grade.

The report's findings were met with dismay by National Director of the RSMA, George Lee: "Despite continuing to give assurances of their commitment to road safety, those responsible for the upkeep of our roads continue to neglect the most cost-effective safety device available to road engineers, the white line," says Lee.

"It is shameful that half of the markings on roads in England are so worn out that they need to be replaced. These markings have already been paid for because we, as taxpayers, are paying to have the roads maintained properly, including the markings, and this is just not happening. The robust evidence in our survey and in this report proves this to be the case."

The RSMA is hopeful that the findings reported in LifeLines England will help the Highways Agency, local authorities and main contractors, identify where adequate resources are being spent on road markings and where inadequate attention is being paid to road markings. The Association is willing to make all the detailed data from its survey available to whichever highways authority requests it in order to improve the safety standard of the roads under their control.

The RSMA met with the Highways Agency prior to publishing the report to share with them the findings of the survey. The Agency has welcomed the opportunity of working with the RSMA to "understand the results further".

"The humble white line can save lives and it is therefore important that they are maintained to a sufficient standard that they do their job properly. If a line is so worn that it cannot be seen, it may as well not be there," concludes George Lee.

The section of road surveyed in England which scored the lowest rating with 94 per cent of markings in need of replacing or in need of being scheduled for replacement was a section of the M3 between Bagshot and Camberley. The section of road surveyed which scored the highest rating with zero per cent of markings in need of replacing and 99 per cent in the "excellent" grade was on A34 from the junction of the A44 (Kidlington) and the M40 (Bicester).

Full details of LifeLines England and a copy of the report are available at [www.comparethemarkings.com](http://www.comparethemarkings.com)

#### **Media contacts for the RSMA:**

Hadstrong: David Armstrong/Becky Hadley 020 7808 7997

#### **The RSMA**

The Road Safety Marking Association [www.rsma.co.uk](http://www.rsma.co.uk) represents 95 per cent of the road marking sector in the UK. Since its inception in 1975, it has been actively involved in promoting road safety initiatives and is committed to raising the quality of working practices, specifications and products.